

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated November 16, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. The Examiner is also thanked for indicating that claims 8, 10, 11 and 13-15 are allowed.

No claims are amended. Claims 5, 9 and 12 were previously canceled. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are hereby canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the contents contained therein. No claims are added. Accordingly, claims 8, 10, 11 and 13-15 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 10, 11 and 13-15 are allowed. *Office Action* at p. 3, ¶ 8.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,230,229 to Stadelmann et al. (hereinafter “*Stadelmann*”) in view of Publication No. GB 490,718 to Hoffmann (hereinafter “*Hoffmann*”). *Office Action* at p. 4, ¶ 1. The rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 7 is moot as claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are canceled herein.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to

complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 19, 2010

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